IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Shiro Fujieda

Application No.: 09/445,304

Filed: December 6, 1999

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
METHOD, MEDIUM STORING
PROGRAM FOR IMAGE PROCESSING,
AND INSPECTION APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2623

Examiner: V. Kibler

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Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2002, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

Replacement for paragraph, 3, page 30:

For example, a local region (3 pixels by pixels) is set for a pixel g at a coordinate position (x, y), as shown in Fig. 7. In differential processing by the Sobel method, level gradients dx (x, y) and dy (x, y) along the respective axes are respectively calculated by equations (1) and (2) using a luminance (brightness) level I of each of the pixels:

$$dx \ (x, y) = \quad \{I(x+1, y-1) + 2 \cdot I (x+1, y) + I(x +1, y+1)\}$$